

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1** NAME

HISTORIC

Orem's Delight

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

East side of Benoni Point Road, .4 mile south of Ferry Neck Road

CITY, TOWN

Royal Oak

☒ VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

CODE

024

COUNTY

Talbot

CODE

041

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☒ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☒ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4** OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Dr. & Mrs. William G. Marr

STREET & NUMBER

533 Garrison Forest Road

CITY, TOWN

Owings Mills

☐ VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Talbot County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Easton,

STATE

Maryland 21601

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

DESCRIPTION

T-193

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Orem's Delight is located on the east side of Benoni Point Road, .4 mile south of Ferry Neck Road in Talbot County, Maryland. A very small dwelling, it is one of the few such 18th-century structures to have survived without incorporation into a larger dwelling.

The house is a 1 1/2-story brick structure, 20 by 25 feet with an interior chimney at the north end. The east facade and north gable are laid in Flemish bond with glazed headers. The east facade has four bays, an entrance door flanked by two windows of equal size and then a tall narrow window in the northernmost bay. The latter is similar to the type of window seen at Cloverfield and Bowlingly (National Register), two much grander houses in Queen Anne's County. The openings have been slightly altered, but the closer patterns show the original placement. Above the door is a rubbed segmental arch, similar to that above a small window at Bowlingly. On the north gable is a belt course two bricks wide with two connected diamonds in glazed brick below the wide chimney. On either side of the vertical diamond pattern is a small window with four-pane sash.

Both the south and west sides were laid in Flemish bond without glazing, but portions have been relaid. Both have a stepped water table. There is shiplap siding in the south gable with two small windows like those in the north gable.

Inside, the structure is divided into two rooms by a vertical beaded board partition. On the fireplace wall in the north room there is some late 18th century fielded paneling flanked by a cabinet and enclosed stair. The second story is one large unfinished room.

Originally the house had a huge fireplace with mitre-arch recesses in the cheeks of the fireplace and a large wood lintel. The floor was about ten inches lower than it is at present. It seems unlikely that the stair was originally located in the northeast corner as the tall, narrow window there lighted the closet at both cloverfield and Bowlingly.

Stylistically Orem's Delight appears to have been constructed during the same period as Cloverfield and Bowlingly, i.e., circa 1720 to 1730. In 1798 the house was essentially the same size and had the same configuration as it does at present, according to the material in the Federal Direct Tax records of that year. At that time a spinning house, kitchen and smokehouse also stood nearby.

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
___PREHISTORIC	___ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	___COMMUNITY PLANNING	___LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	___RELIGION
___1400-1499	___ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	___CONSERVATION	___LAW	___SCIENCE
___1500-1599	___AGRICULTURE	___ECONOMICS	___LITERATURE	___SCULPTURE
___1600-1699	<u>X</u> ARCHITECTURE	___EDUCATION	___MILITARY	___SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<u>X</u> 1700-1799	___ART	___ENGINEERING	___MUSIC	___THEATER
___1800-1899	___COMMERCE	___EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	___PHILOSOPHY	___TRANSPORTATION
___1900-	___COMMUNICATIONS	___INDUSTRY	___POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	___OTHER (SPECIFY)
		___INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architecturally, Orem's Delight is important for several reasons. It possesses many unusual original features, including the fenestration of the main facade, the glazed diamonds on the north gable and the early fireplace. It also has good late 18th century interior detail in the paneling and woodwork. Most significant, perhaps, is the fact that it has survived unchanged into the present. Most people of the 18th century lived in houses of this size, though most were frame rather than brick. Because it was never enlarged, Orem's Delight remains as an example of the space in which the average family lived in 18th century tidewater Maryland.

It is thought that the house was built by Morris Orem at about the time of his marriage to Alice Spedden, prior to 1730.¹ Morris was a son of Andrew Orem and Elinor Morris married in 1678 in the Quaker faith.² John Morris, Elinor's father, died circa 1685 and left her part of his lands, Fox Hole and Fox Harbor, -- (3/41, 1676 and 3/359, 1680). She then left these properties to her son Morris in 1734, along with "all the moveable goods in the house where he now resides."³

Morris Orem and his wife, Alice Spedden Orem, raised a family of three sons and four daughters. One son died unmarried; the other two inherited their father's lands. Andrew was given that part called Fox Hole "on which my dwelling now stands," and Hugh inherited adjoining property.⁴

Andrew married Rachel Benson in 1747. Her nephew, Perry Benson, would later claim fame as a Revolutionary soldier and as the leader of the forces defending St. Michaels from the British invasion in 1813.

Testamentary proceedings were recorded in 1774 regarding Andrew Orem's estate.⁵ According to his widow's will in 1789, her oldest son and executor, Andrew, (Jr), shared in the division of "moveable goods, crops and livestock,"⁶ He had already had a resurvey of his father's lands made by David Barrow in 1787, and a patented certificate was issued to him in 1798, called Orem's Delight.⁷ In the 1798 Federal Direct Tax Assessment, Andrew Orem is listed as the head of the household and owner of a part of Orem's Delight situated on the west side of Fox Hole Creek; a brick dwelling house, one story, 25 feet by 20 feet; a spinning house, 20 feet by 15 feet, of wood, with a brick chimney; a kitchen of wood (of no value); and a smokehouse, 10 feet square.⁸ The description and measure-

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Orem's Delight
Talbot County,

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

ment of the house match that of the existing house called Orem's Delight (see description).

When he died in 1829, Andrew Orem left no male survivors, and his property went to his daughter Elizabeth's son, Andrew Orem Oxenham. This property included "all the lands and tenements, parts of a tract called 'Fox Hole,' part of a tract called 'Waterford,' and part of a tract called 'Ealom,' re-surveyed and called Orem's Delight."⁹

Andrew Oxenham was living at Orem's Delight in 1867 when he had a survey to lay out a five-acre oyster bed in Fox Hole Creek entered in the Land Records (74/457). He died in 1872, and the administration accounts filed by his widow and executrix indicate financial troubles.¹⁰ The estate of Andrew Orem had never been fully settled and the heirs, James O. Oxenham and Margaret Leonard, took their case to the Chancery Court.¹⁰ The house and contents were ordered sold to pay the debts. Edward S. Harris bought the house and lands in 1877 for \$3,500 (90/215). The contents were auctioned to satisfy the claimants.¹¹

Harris died in 1891, and by his will left "all that farm or plantation known as Foxes Hole on the Orem farm" to his eldest son, Spedden Orem Harris.¹² However, there was a stipulation that Spedden must pay his younger brother, Jeremiah Valliant Harris, \$4,000, constituting a lien on the place. Evidently he couldn't, or wouldn't meet this requirement, and in 1893 Jeremiah took title from Charles E. Shannahan, trustee (120/182). In 1896 Jeremiah Harris conveyed the property to William O. Oxenham and his wife, Rose Ida, for \$2,800. Six years later the Oxenhams sold "the Orem Delight farm, 115 acres" to William H. Valliant for \$3,000 (137/287).

These various families on Ferry Neck, the Oremes, the Rigbys, Leonards, Oxenhams and Valliants, to mention a few, were so closely intertwined by marriage and association, that it is fair to say this property remained in the same family, though not always of the same name, for a tenure of well over 250 years. Few places in Talbot can claim this distinction. But in 1935, William Valliant sold it to Thomas Hicks and his wife Mary (235/439). They in turn sold it, with other adjoining parcels, in 1940, to Gene Tunney, who had been the Heavyweight Boxing Champion of the world, and his wife, Mary Lauder Tunney (226/203 and 250/26). The Tunneys occupied the property until 1946, when they sold it to Creston E. Jackson (269/284). In 1952 Reynold and Vernon Hoffman bought it from the Jacksons (302/89), who sold it in 1968 to the present owners, Dr. William G. Marr and his wife,

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PAGE 2

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Mary Washington (431/467).

Dr. and Mrs. Marr are now, in 1977, beginning the restoration of this small brick house with great care and sensitivity.

- 1 Will of Hugh Spedden, Dorchester County, 1730. 21/118; and Hodge's Marriage References. Hall of Records, Annapolis.
- 2 Robert Barnes, Maryland Marriages. 1634-1777 (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1975).
- 3 Will of Elinor Orem Rigby, 1734 (HB2/180).
- 4 Will of Morris Orem, probated 1765 (4/46).
- 5 Testamentary Proceedings - Andrew Orem 45/335 - 1774 Hall of Records, Annapolis.
- 6 Will of Rachel Orem, 1789 (JB4/71).
- 7 Patent Certificate #458, issued May 3, 1798
L # I.C. #A/14, laid out for 110 acres,
David D. Barrow, surveyor. Hall of Records, Ann.
- 8 Federal Direct Tax Assessment of 1798, microfilm,
Maryland Room, Talbot County Library.
- 9 Will of Andrew Orem, 1829 (JP8/399).
- 10 Chancery Docket, JB#2, 1872-78 cases.
#257, and #266. Also Administration Accounts,
TNC 24/310 and CRM 25/9 and 12.
- 11 Administration Accounts - CRM 25/299.
- 12 Will of Edward S. Harris, 1891 (EHR14G/107).

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

SEE FOOTNOTES, SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT #8

T-193

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 15 375370 4283410
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

FORM PREPARED BY

njm

NAME / TITLE

Michael O. Bourne, Architectural Consultant/Cynthia Ludlow, Research
ORGANIZATION /Maryland Historical Trust DATE Historian

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 716/ 21 State Circle

TELEPHONE

778-0069/269-2438

CITY OR TOWN

Chestertown/Annapolis

STATE

Maryland 21620/21401

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE X

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

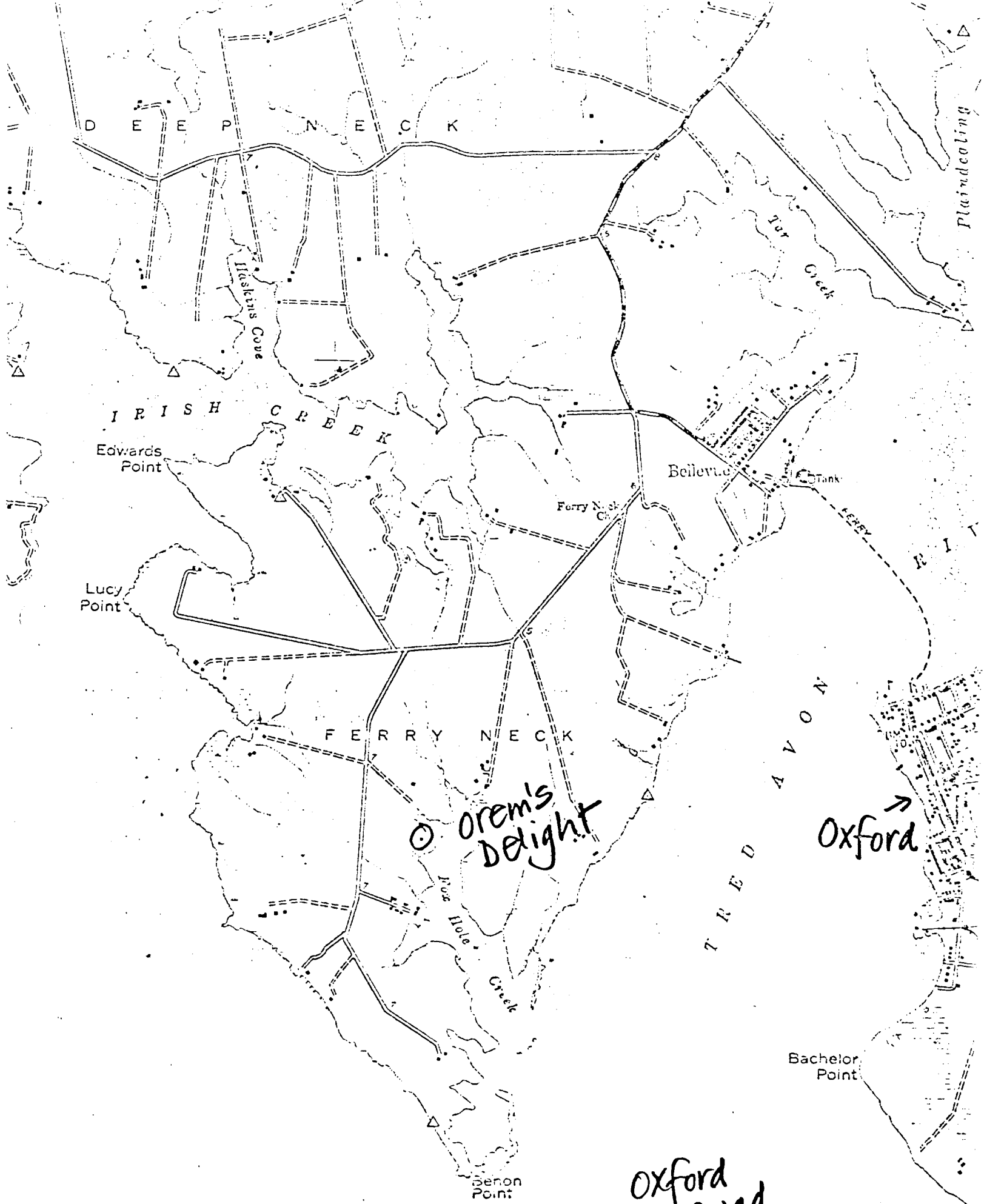
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



○ Orem's Delight

→ Oxford

Oxford Quad

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14x1.45

75%

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Orem's Delight T-193

S.E.

M. Bourne April 1926



Orem's Delight

T-193

South

M. Bourne April 1976



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OREM'S DELIGHT
FROM N.W.
R.V.R. 1/30/76





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OREM'S DELIGHT
FROM N.E.
R-VIR 1/30/76





OREM'S DELIGHT
FROM NORTH
CABLE, R.V.R.
1/30/76

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OREM'S DELIGHT
SOUTH GABLE, END
R.V.R. 1/30/76

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Orems Delight T-193





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